

CLAIMS

We claim:

Sub a

1. A method of managing software components, said method comprising:
deploying one or more software components on a plurality of computer
platforms wherein said components interoperate with each other to
execute a business application;
monitoring said components with an Administrator, said Administrator
functioning independently of said components;
determining a need to reconfigure one or more said components;
modifying or replacing one or more said components using said Administrator
in response to said determining;
wherein said monitoring, said determining, and said modifying are performed without
reference to said computer platforms and wherein said modifying or replacing
reconfigures said business application without terminating said business application.
- 15 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein two or more of said plurality of
computer platforms are geographically separated from each other.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said Administrator comprises a
central administration program.
4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said Administrator comprises one or
more distributed administration programs.
- 25 5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said monitoring comprises receiving
health status messages each containing only changes in said health status since receipt
of a last health status message.

Sub b

25

*Sub
a* 6. A computer system for managing software components, comprising computer instructions for:
5 deploying one or more software components on a plurality of computer platforms wherein said components interoperate with each other to execute a business application;
10 monitoring said components with an Administrator, said Administrator functioning independently of said components;
 determining a need to reconfigure one or more said components;
 modifying or replacing one or more said components using said Administrator in response to said determining;
 wherein said monitoring, said determining, and said modifying are performed without reference to said computer platforms and wherein said modifying or replacing reconfigures said business application without terminating said business application.

15 7. The method of Claim 6, wherein two or more of said plurality of computer platforms are geographically separated from each other.

20 8. The method of Claim 6, wherein said Administrator comprises a central administration program.

25 9. The method of Claim 6, wherein said Administrator comprises one or more distributed administration programs.

*Sub
20* 10. The method of Claim 6, wherein said monitoring comprises receiving health status messages each containing only changes in said health status since receipt of a last health status message.

11. A computer readable storage medium, comprising computer instructions for:

Sub A

deploying one or more software components on a plurality of computer platforms wherein said components interoperate with each other to execute a business application;

monitoring said components with an Administrator, said Administrator

5 functioning independently of said components;

determining a need to reconfigure one or more said components;

modifying or replacing one or more said components using said Administrator

in response to said determining;

wherein said monitoring, said determining, and said modifying are performed without

10 reference to said computer platforms and wherein said modifying or replacing reconfigures said business application without terminating said business application.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein two or more of said plurality of computer platforms are geographically separated from each other.

13. The method of Claim 11, wherein said Administrator comprises a

15 central administration program.

14. The method of Claim 11, wherein said Administrator comprises one or more distributed administration programs.

15. The method of Claim 11, wherein said monitoring comprises receiving health status messages each containing only changes in said health status since receipt

20 of a last health status message.

16. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave, comprising computer instructions for:

25 deploying one or more software components on a plurality of computer platforms wherein said components interoperate with each other to execute a business application;

Don't care

monitoring said components with an Administrator, said Administrator functioning independently of said components; determining a need to reconfigure one or more said components; modifying or replacing one or more said components using said Administrator

5 in response to said determining;

wherein said monitoring, said determining, and said modifying are performed without reference to said computer platforms and wherein said modifying or replacing reconfigures said business application without terminating said business application.

17. The method of Claim 16, wherein two or more of said plurality of
10 computer platforms are geographically separated from each other.

18. ~~The method of Claim 16, wherein said Administrator comprises a central administration program.~~

19. ~~The method of Claim 16, wherein said Administrator comprises one or more distributed administration programs.~~

20. ~~The method of Claim 16, wherein said monitoring comprises receiving health status messages each containing only changes in said health status since receipt of a last health status message.~~